

OUTDOOR RECREATION TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 1, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

State Capitol Complex, East Building
First Floor, Southeast Conference Room

MEMBERS/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

CURTIS, Wes	Governor's Office - State Planning Coordinator
MORGAN, Bob	Department of Natural Resources
KORENBLAT, Ashley	Western Spirit Cycling – President
ZUMWALT, Glen	Big Pine Sports Inc. - President
STOWELL, Dennis	Iron County Commissioner
MCKEE, Mike	Uintah County Commissioner
OKERLUND, Ralph	Sevier County Commissioner
CUTLER, Riley	Wasatch Touring - Owner/Manager
GOCHNOUR, Jeff	DCED, Div of Business & Economic Development
REEDER, Dean	DCED, Div. of Travel Development
RASMUSSEN, Roody	PETZ: America
STEVENS, Lynn	San Juan County Commissioner
WALTERS, Clara	GOPB - Staff

GUESTS/ PRESENTERS

CARTER, Kevin	SITLA
ANDREWS, John	SITLA
BANKS, Don	BLM, USO
PETERSEN, Ray	Emery County Commissioner
GARDNER, Brent	Association of Governments
JOHNSON, Myrna	OIA
GUBBING, Patrick	BLM, Price Field Office
HUNSAKER, Dave	BLM, GSENM
LUDINGTON, Wayne	BLM, Price Field Office
HARJA, John	DNR

I. Call To Order/Introductions

Wes Curtis called the meeting to order. Introductions of those present were made and when a quorum was present the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Ashley Korenblat made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Dennis Stowell seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting began with Randy Johnson reviewing the Governor's proposed program on Wilderness in Washington County. At the end of his remarks, he said the group created from stake holders will make recommendations to the delegation from the Governor and propose legislation. The meetings are open to the public.

II. Trade Show Report – Roody Rasmussen

The retailer's trade show was a success, with attendance being way up and 3300 exhibitors participating. The day before the show the OIA Board met and recommended the Outdoor Retailer's Trade Show remain in Salt Lake City for the next 5 years (thru 2009), contingent on the State of Utah's continued partnership with the OIA to promote a recreation economy, protect its recreation gems and a timely expansion of the Salt Palace. The two candidates running for Governor also want to continue the work of the Task Force with OIA.

III. Reports of Activities:

Kanab Meeting: Glen Zumwalt and Dennis Stowell met with the 5 County Association of Government on June 9, 2004. The ARGC presentation given at the last Task Force meeting was presented. The Board was excited about using the internet and maps to help preserve the counties' crown jewels. A motion to move ahead with the idea was made, with proposed items being approved locally by the county commissioners before being put on the Internet. Overall the reception was good with no negative comments expressed. The Association did request a heads-up on things coming their way.

Dennis offered to bring a copy of the "motion" for the next meeting.

Moab: The county commissioners met in Moab last month. Wes and Dennis Goreham gave a condensed presentation of the ARGC tool and what it can do. A good discussion ensued about outdoor recreation and the potential it holds in terms of creating more economic development with the counties. Wes told them the Task Force works on Economic Development and that it will be a help for the counties in the future.

Rural Summit: Dennis G. gave the ARGC presentation at the Annual Utah Rural Summit in Cedar City. He gave 3 different sessions, all were full, and they generated a lot of interest.

BLM: The BLM gave the Task Force data requested containing maps and CDs. They also included visitor days and state-wide mailing lists of their recreation contacts. Craig MacKay supplied data of recreation associations, contacts, and organizations around the area.

IV. Report on Crown Jewels Identification Meeting w/BLM – Wes Curtis

Task Force: The sub-committee established at the last meeting met with the BLM. Wes, Lynn, Mike M., Myrna, Riley, and Ashley were members of the sub-group. They looked at different kinds of partnerships and programs the Task Force could support to help facilitate better management and involvement of people at the local level. Wes asked the BLM to give the same presentation to the Task Force they gave to the sub-committee.

Recreation interests' protest letter on gas leases: A letter was sent to the BLM protesting an upcoming gas lease sale taking place next week. At the same time a letter was sent to the Governor regarding the sale and asked what role the Task Force plays in these issues.

Roody responded to the group concerning the gas leases. A lease auction came up in June and another this September totaling about ½ million acres of BLM land going out for gas leasing.

The second batch is 300,000 acres and 223 parcels. Outdoor groups contacted OIA to represent their interests and make known to the BLM and Governor's Office they had serious concerns about 14 parcels of the land in and around Desolation Canyon region. The parcels being protested lie above Desolation Canyon area and border the Green River on both sides. There is a visual corridor on the parcels that fronts the Green River for ½ mile. Their concern is that it's approaching the point where the wilderness experience is being compromised in a visual and auditory manner. OIA is asking for more time to study the problem.

Roody read the letter to the Task Force and named parcel 199 in particular. They requested the BLM to wait on the lease sale until the Task Force has named the Crown Jewels. Because it was difficult to visualize the situation, it was suggested that Wes take a group to see parcel 199 to ascertain the issues. The parcel is in Uintah County. Commissioners will also be invited.

Don Banks was asked to explain the procedures of the sales. The main thing everyone should remember is a sale is not final until protests have been completed. Issues can be brought to their attention that suggests the sale should not go through. Don also explained how they assess land parcels.

Wes summed up the discussion noting concerns of noise, visual impairment, and the Wild and Scenic River status. He told the Task Force they were in an information gathering mode right now. The concerns raised would be looked into by both the Task Force members going to visit the sites and the BLM. Those members who go on the site visit will email their observations to the whole Task Force

A discussion ensued about who to contact with concerns and in the end it was decided to send concerns to Wes or Clara and they will get the information out to the Task Force members.

Wes summed the discussion up with questions of:

- What role can the Task Force play in letting people know what is happening in the state?
- As we go through the process, what can be done in the future to get ahead of issues?
- Could a protocol for dealing with concerns be set up?
- Can rural counties that have task forces who receive and review concerns about their counties act as a pipeline?

V. BLM Presentation on Crown Jewels for Task Force Focus – Don Banks

He began by talking about how the BLM identifies land. It can be identified as special recreational management areas and areas of critical environmental concern. These lands are typically recreation based, vary in character, and are identified on their maps.

Brain-storming from the meeting on the 16th produced two categories.

1. Short term – Places that would benefit from increased attention
 - a) GSENM
 - b) San Rafael Swell

- c) Indian Creek
- And opportunities for other possible short term
 - a) SITLA Synchronicity
 - b) BLM's road less traveled by "Backcountry Byway" added to the map
 - c) "Wayside exhibit enhancement program" situated along major roads
 - d) Adopt a Trail, ACDCs, etc.

- 2. Long term containing policy-related issues attached
 - a) Wild and Scenic River Designations
 - b) Other Special Designations in pocket places like Comb Ridge, potential National Recreation Trails (Slick rock Bike, Gooseberry Mesa)

Discussion turned to the possibility of counties establishing lists of lands that can be promoted and local people/groups should be involved in recognizing and designating the crown jewels for the state.

San Rafael Swell: The BLM would like to enhance recreation opportunities and balanced management in the San Rafael Swell. This includes implementing the route designation plan as well as maintaining and enhancing non-motorized opportunities. SWELL discussion covered a hand-out that contained a list of 8 different ideas and needs the BLM identified.

Mapping	Rehabilitation
Signage	Community Economic Development Initiative
Law Enforcement	Resource Monitoring
Partnership Coordinator	Primitive Recreational Facilities

A suggestion was presented by the Task Force to look at the SITLA relationship soon to see if it's possible to enter into land exchanges between BLM and SITLA.

VI. SITLA Power Point Presentation - Kevin Carter

Kevin provided background information about SITLA. His presentation showed what SITLA does, its mission, and explained the trust established that mandated the lands were to be administered for the financial support of the beneficiaries (schools), a duty of undivided loyalty, and that beneficiaries do not include other governmental institutions, the public at large, or the general welfare of the state. The Agency has been managing Trust Lands since 1884.

He discussed a current proposal for a recreation land exchange with the BLM involving lands along the Colorado River Corridor in the Moab area. Right now SITLA is waiting for feedback on that specific land package. It's anticipated that legislation will be introduced, but won't be passed this year. For land exchanges of this magnitude (36,000 acres) it requires an act of Congress.

Kevin came to the Task Force with this proposal, because of the dynamics. SITLA would like to move their ownership of lands out of areas that might conflict with recreation use. They see a land exchange as a management tool to extract SITLA from sensitive areas and still meet their "Management Mandate."

VII. GSE National Monument Presentation – Dave Hunsaker

The Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument was established in 1996 and is contained entirely within Kane and Garfield Counties. It is nearly 2 million acres in size and the first national monument under BLM control. The Monument is surrounded by the Forest Service, National Park Service, Utah State Parks and State Institutional Trust Lands, private land and other public land administered by BLM. The GSEM Plan, an intensively collaborative effort, was produced in just 3 years. It was signed in November 1999 – with immediate implementation

The key management concepts from the plan include:

1. Collaboration and building partnerships
2. To share the wealth
3. Maintain frontier character
4. Learn from the land

Traditional uses of public lands are accommodated by the Management Plan, and include sensitive transportation and access issues. Keys to future success at GSENM lie in the continued involvement in collaborative management areas including: Planning, NEPA, and implementation of “Management Plan” decisions. The Monument is successfully implementing the Plan by providing for multiple uses consistent with the proclamation. They are maintaining and creating opportunities for meaningful collaboration and cooperation across the board.

After the presentation, the Task Force talked about marketing. A question of how the Monument can be marketed and keep it at the county and local level was put forth? Wes told the group marketing was broached at the sub-committee meeting with the BLM.

At the conclusion of the Monument discussion the Task Force decided there is opportunity for marketing and a well created marketing strategy could be produced. They also decided to approach the Monument Advisory Committee with the marketing idea.

Indian Creek – Lynn Stevens

Lynn described the site as a premier rock climbing site with no amenities. He went on to tell the group that there’s a commercial opportunity, but no one has any plans to do anything and the place is packed with climbers every free college day or spring break. This could be looked into for outfitters or even a small store.

Recap - Where to Focus the Task Force Efforts

Wes recapped what the meeting covered and the needs were listed for review.

1. SITLA – Land Exchange

Due Diligence sub-committee – Ashley, Riley, Myrna, Mike, Glen, Jerry McNeilly

2. San Rafael Swell

- a) Do a letter of request for line item money of \$800,000 to Senator Bennett and Kathleen Clarke for land exchange with SITLA
- b) Get commissioners, UAC, OIA, and Task Force to also write letter
- c) Make sure it is for new money (not from appropriated budget and part of the BLM base budget)
- d) Ask for the money for next year
- e) Also prepare letter of request to Don Banks

Wes made a motion to prepare a letter of support for the Land Exchange and Dennis seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Grand Staircase

- 1. Opportunities for niche marketing – Possibly through DCED
 - a) Do presentation on how marketing is done for the state – Dean Reeder
- 2. How to develop outfitter opportunity thru marketing
- 3. Develop science research within the Staircase
 - a) Host symposiums
- 4. Approach the Monument Advisory Committee about developing a partnership with them in marketing the research opportunities.

4. San Rafael Swell

- 1. Infra-structure.
 - a) Maps/signs
- 2. Operations
 - a) Enforcement
 - b) Partnerships

5. Continue Inventory

- a) Forest Service
- b) NPS
- c) ARGC – Internet Mapping
- d) Green River Corridor
- e) Indian Creek – Budget Money

Next Meeting Subjects

The group decided to leave the choice of which items to focus on, until next month's meeting and to also pick up the discussion of economic return and identification of crown jewels that will get a better economic return.

Next Meeting: **Thursday, October 14, 2004**
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
State Capitol Complex

Adjourned – 4:00 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Letter for the San Rafael budget request will be sent right away.**
- 2. Ralph Oakerland will report what Sevier County is doing with partnerships with the hope the Task Force can use it as a model.**
- 3. Ask Nan Anderson UTIC (Utah Travelism Coalition) to give her presentation on Tourism Tax Proposal (Senator Jenkins)**
- 4. Presentation on marketing – Dean Reeder**